



DATMINYAN

Parashat Vayechi

January 7, 2023 ~ 14 Tevet 5783

Rabbi Shmuel Halpern, Rabbi ~ Dr. Jonathan Fishman, President

440 S. Monaco Pkwy., Denver, CO 80224 ~ www.datminyán.org ~ office@datminyán.org

Candle Lighting 4:32 pm
Havdallah 5:36 pm

Masks are optional at our minyanim. We encourage anyone who wishes or needs to wear a mask to continue to do so. If you have any symptoms or not feeling well, please stay home.

We look forward to you joining us this Shabbat!

Friday

Mincha/ Kabbalat Shabbat/ Maariv: 4:35 pm
Shema should be recited after 5:35 pm

Scholar-in-Residence
Rabbi Daniel Alter
See page 5 for schedule

Shabbat

Shacharit: 9:00 am (*with childcare*)
Latest time for Shema is 9:43 am

Kiddush following services

Mincha: 4:15 pm
Maariv: 5:36 pm

D'var Torah by Rabbi Halpern

Dr. Brene Brown argues that we have too much sympathy and not enough empathy.

Sympathy is to see someone in a dark hole, and while we stand on solid ground, we yell down into the pit, “hey, it’s not so bad down there; it’ll be okay. And, if you really wanted to, you could always climb on out.” On the other hand, empathy is to climb down into the pit and join them in their pain — “I’m here with you; you’re not alone.”

Empathy requires that we allow ourselves to be vulnerable and truly feel the pain of the other, while sympathy allows us to remain at a comfortable distance.

Empathy is always an important concept to think about. But as we take leave of the glorious era of Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov and begin to read about the painful and dark Egyptian exile, empathy takes front and center stage.

Though we struggle to understand the many years of pain, the lessons we’ve learned in the crucible of suffering are enduring.

“And you should love the convert for you were strangers in the land of Egypt (Devarim 10:19).” The collective Jewish consciousness knows what it means to be lonely and oppressed. Therefore, the Torah commands us to remember the Egyptian exodus twice daily. As comfortable as we might get, we only need to dig one layer beneath the surface to find the vulnerability we need for genuine empathy.

“Don’t charge interest... I am Hashem your G-d who redeemed you from Egypt (Vayikra 25:36-38).” The Torah links the mitzvah of free loans to the exodus because the empathetic person knows how to transcend self. It’s okay to have our money work for us sometimes. But we must learn to focus on the needs of others, even in the absence of any personal benefit.

Continued on next page

Davening Times for the Upcoming Week:

Shacharit

Sun: 8:00 am
Mon, Thurs: 6:30 am
Tues, Wed, Fri: 6:35 am

Mincha

Sun-Thurs: 4:35 pm
Fri: 4:40 pm

All times are listed at datminyán.org/calendar

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D'var Torah (cont.)

Ramban explains that Breishit is the book of the Fathers, while Shemot is the book of the children. What happened to the fathers is a blueprint for the lives of the nation of Israel.

Yaakov faced Eisav, Lavan, and then Eisav again; Dinah was violated and Yaakov thought Yosef dead. Finally, arriving in Egypt to the loving care of his beloved son Yosef, he could rest. Yaakov hoped that his life, with its many ups and downs, would be enough to teach his children the lessons of empathy.

But Yaakov didn't know there was still a crack in the unity within his beloved family. The same family that had nearly killed their brother would generations later produce a Dathan and Aviram who sought to have Moshe killed by Pharaoh —prompting Moshe to say, “now I know why the Jews are still in exile.”

But finally, the nation that left Egypt —having survived only by standing together— was ready to stand at Sinai as one, and it was a unified nation that received its charge to be a light unto the nations. Just like the limbs and organs of one body, all Jews play a vital role in crowning Hashem as King. And when we live up to our calling, the world, too, sings the praise of our Father in Heaven.

Empathy is difficult when we can't find common ground with our suffering brethren. But aren't we in this together?? Sure, our life stories are as varied as our personalities, but when we come together to serve One G-d, we realize that in everything that truly matters, we are indeed one interconnected unit.

(Based in part on beautiful Torah thoughts heard from Rabbi M. Lehrfeld and Josh Raderman)



Come Learn With Us

- **Rabbi Daniel Alter** will be speaking at DAT Minyan this Shabbat- See flyer on page 5 for schedule.
- **Rabbanit Shani Taragin** will be giving a special Women's Shiur on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:30 pm at the home of Rachel Rabonovitch (151 S. Olive Street, Lowry)
- **Rabbi Chaim Eisen** will be speaking at DAT Minyan on February 10-11. More information to follow.
- **Mishna Berura Shiur** will not be meeting this Shabbat.
- **Masechet Megillah Chabura** Mondays at 7:30 pm at the home of Michal Elias-Bachrach and Yoni Eckmann, 375 S Krameria St. For men and women, all comfort levels welcome, join any time! For info contact Michal at ebmichal@gmail.com or 610-348-8508.
- [Click here](#) to view this week's edition of **Mizrachi's Parshat Hashavua package**, or pick one up in the shul's lobby. mizrachi.org/hamizrachiweekly
- **OU Women's Initiative 5783 Parsha Series** Join Torat Imecha each week for a stimulating and inspirational 10-12 minute shiur to share with family and friends. Sign up for emails at ou.org/women/parsha, or download the Torat Imecha app!

DAT Minyan Announcements

- **Welcome** to our Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Daniel Alter. See flyer on page 5 for Rabbi Alter's speaking schedule.
- **Rabbi Halpern's Mishna Berura Shiur** will not be meeting this Shabbat.
- **Women's Shiur:** Rabbanit Shani Taragin will be speaking this Tuesday, January 10, at 7:30 at the home of Rachel Rabinovitch (151 S. Olive St, Lowry)
- **View Rabbi Halpern's weekly one-minute video Dvar Torah** at datminyan.org/video-dvar
- **Save the Date: Feb 10-11** S-I-R Rabbi Chaim Eisen will be speaking at DAT Minyan.
- **Shop with DAT Minyan!** Your Amazon purchases can help DAT Minyan at no extra cost to you! Go to smile.amazon.com and click on "get started" to set your charity as DAT Minyan. Then shop away!
- **Winter Clothes Drive** Ongoing throughout the winter - we are collecting warm outerwear and clothes for kids and adults - all sizes. Drop off at 375 S. Krameria Street.

Members' Milestones



Susie Sharf, Lori Weiser, Sally Alpert, Boruch Sher, Joseph Shafran, Ava Raphaely



Graeme and Irit Bean



Bernard Sunshine (15 Tevet)

Martin Hutt (18 Tevet)

Refuah Shlemah

Please include the following names in your tefilla. May each be granted a Refuah Shlemah.

Aliza bat Batsheva

Alonit bat Yael

Bella bas Malka

Chaya Sarah Miriam bat Esther

Hannah bat Naomi Miriam

HaRav Benyomin Daniel Ben Chaya

Masha bas Rivka

Mika Ester Bat Adi

Miriam Adina bat Sara

Mordechai ben Chaya Hannah

Naama

Nechama bat Chana

Penina Devorah bas Shulamit Itka

Ruchel Malkah bat Leah

Ruchel Michele bas Sara

Saige bat Hannah

Sarah Rivka bat Rachel Leah

Shalom Shimon ben Rachel

Shmuel Aharon ben Jenny

Shoshanah bat Miriam

Yaakov ben Golda Simma

Yonatan Zeev ben Netaa

Yosef ben Sarah Imenu

Yosef Yitzchok ben Sima Chasya

Yossef ben Dinah

Ze'ev Shmuel ben Helena

Names are kept on the list until Shabbat Mevarchim. Help us keep the list accurate by updating the [Cholim Document](#) or by emailing office@datminyan.org

Community Happenings

- Shabbat Kallah for Jasmine Joshua will take place this Shabbat afternoon at 3:30 pm at the home of Sarah Leah Golombek (6751 E Center Ave). All women and mature girls are invited to attend.
- Bais Menachem Mega Kids Challah Bake with Rabbi B! Sunday, January 22, 10:00 am at the BMH-BJ Social Hall. All kids ages 3-12! (Kids must be accompanied by an adult.) Sign up at www.chabadcolorado.com/challahbake.
- East Side Eruv. Visit www.denvereruv.org to sign up for weekly status messages, Eruv maps, and to make donations.
- The Mikvah of East Denver (MOED) is now open for Women's immersion, Men's immersion and Keilim immersion. Visit www.mikvahofeastdenver.org for membership registration and to make an appointment.



Women's Shiur with

Rabbanit Shani Taragin



Tuesday, January 10 ~ 7:30 pm

at the home of Rachel Rabinovitch, 151 S Olive Street, Lowry

Rabbanit Shani Taragin received her B.A. and M.A. in Tanakh and Talmud from Bar-Ilan University and is a graduate of Nishmat's Keren Ariel Program for certification as a halachic advisor (yoetzet halacha) in issues of family purity law. She is the educational director of Matan-Bellows Eshkolot Tanakh teachers' professional development program and Mizrachi-MTVA Lapidot teachers of Torah shebe'al-peh. Shani has directed, taught and continues to teach, lead Tanach tours and coordinate programs in numerous seminaries and adult education programs in Israel (e.g. Matan, Herzog College, MTVA, Midreshet Lindenbaum, Migdal Oz, Nishmat, OU, YU, the Eden Center, Women's Beit Midrash in Gush Etzion and Ramat Beit Shemesh) and worldwide. Shani serves on the advisory committee for the World Mizrachi Shalhevet program for shlichim and lectures on topics of Tanach, Jewish education, Jewish law and women's health. Together with her husband, Reuven, she serves as Educational Director for World Mizrachi. Shani lives with her family in Alon Shvut, Gush Etzion.

This Week in Jewish History

8 Tevet 3515 (246 BCE)

Ptolemy, the Greek-Egyptian emperor, made a second attempt to translate the Torah into Greek after an earlier attempt had failed 61 years earlier. To do this, he gathered 72 Torah sages and had them translate the text in their own separate room. On the 8th of Tevet in the year 3515 from creation (246 BCE), they all completed their translations, which included identical changes in 13 places where they believed a literal translation would distort the true meaning of the Torah. This translation became known as the Septuagint, or "of the seventy." The Septuagint contributed to Greek becoming a significant second language among Jews. Some Jews during Talmudic times observed the 8th of Tevet as a fast day, expressing concern over the potential negative impact of the translation. (1)

January 5, 1941 (16 Tevet 5702)

The Nazis liquidate the Kharkiv ghetto in Ukraine. This city, along with others, had thousands of Jewish residents. Around 23,000 Jews from Kharkiv and the surrounding area were murdered. (2)

January 6, 1863 (15 Tevet 5623)

General Ulysses S. Grant revokes his order to expel 30 Jewish families in Paducah, Kentucky. Despite his anti-Semitic act, Grant's reputation changed after the war. He received significant support from Jewish voters in the 1868 presidential election and appointed several Jews to high positions in his administration. (3)

1. https://www.chabad.org/calendar/view/day_cdo/aid/384845/jewish/Day-View.htm.
2. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/febhistory.html>.
3. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/general-grant-s-infamy>.

Thank you to Avi Polotsky for compiling this section



DATMINYAN

Rabbi Daniel Alter

Scholar in Residence January 6-7, 2023



Friday Night, January 6

- Drasha between Mincha and Maariv.
Mincha begins at 4:35 pm
- Oneg and Shiur at 7:30 pm
"The Speech that Never Ends: A Text Study"
at the Polotsky home (7369 E Byers Ave)

Shabbat Day, January 7

- Drasha after Mussaf
"Always Discuss Politics or Religion in Polite Company"
Shacharit begins at 9:00 am
- Seudah Shelishit following Mincha at 4:15 pm
"Navigating Contemporary Topics in Jewish Education"

Rabbi Daniel Alter received rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University and has an MA in Jewish History. He is currently Head of School of The Moriah School in Englewood, New Jersey. During his prior 16 years in Denver, he was the first Rabbi of East Denver Orthodox Synagogue and Head of School of Denver Academy of Torah. He was the founder of both DAT Minyan and the DAT High School. He is married to Rivka, and they are the parents of seven children.